

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

IO-10 OMB-01 /068 W

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R 070330Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0708

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7576

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJ: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS--NO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN JULY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY. THOSE HOLDING BREATHS FOR EARLY ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD EXHALE. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER MIKI TOLD DIET JUNE 6 THAT JOINT ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD NOT BE HELD IN JULY. ON JUNE 3 FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA CONFIRMED TO UPPER HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE THAT SOME DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING THE HANDLING OF KIM DONG WOON WOULD BE A PREREQUISITE TO THE HOLDING OF THE CONFERENCE. BOTH MIYAZAWA AND NORTHEAST ASIA DIVDIR SEO HAVE DENIED EMPHATICALLY PRESS REPORTS THAT TALKS UNDERWAY BETWEEN ROK AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS TO SOLVE KIM CASE.

2. BY STRIKING CONTRAST, KOREAN AMBASSADOR TOLD DCM JUNE 5 THAT HE HAD SPENT RECENT WEEKS IN CONVERSATIONS WITH JAPANESE OFFICIALS TRYING TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE ON KIM DONG WOON. COMPROMISE FORMULA HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WHICH AMBASSADOR SAID ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH POLICE AND FOREIGN OFFICE, AND WHICH HE PREPARED TO PRESENT IN PERSON TO GOVERNMENT IN SEOUL. HOWEVER, AMBASSA-
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DOR KIM SAID, PRIME MINISTER MIKI STILL NOT SATISFIED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUESTION JUNE 6 ON PROSPECTS FOR MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL NAKAE RESPONDED ONLY THAT MIKI GOVERNMENT WAS WEAK AND NEEDED SUPPORT FROM ALL SECTORS OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

4. COMMENT: IMPLICATION WE DRAW FROM ABOVE COLLAGE OF EVASIVE ANSWERS AND CONTRADICTORY REPORTS IS THAT JAPANESE AND KOREANS HAD INDEED COME CLOSE TO ACHIEVING COMPROMISE BUT THAT MIKI REFUSED TO AGREE. PERHAPS HE WANTS TO KEEP ISSUE DORMANT DURING FINAL KEY MONTH OF DIET THROUGH WHICH HE IS STRAINING TO PASS THE TATTERED REMNANTS OF A ONCE AMBITIOUS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. PERHAPS HE FEELS THAT INITIAL SHOCK WAVES OF VIETNAM DEBACLE ARE PAST AND THAT URGENCY OF NEED TO DEMONSTRATE SOLIDARITY WITH ROK HAS DECLINED. WHATEVER THE REASONS, THE CHANCES OF HOLDING THE CONFERENCE SOON APPEAR TO HAVE RECEDED. SEO TOLD US THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA HAD EXPRESSED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AT OECD MINISTERIAL MAY 27 THE HOPE THAT CONFERENCE COULD BE SCHEDULED IN SEPTEMBER. PROSPECTS MAY BE CLARIFIED DURING MIKI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN AUGUST.
HODGSON

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